Equipment fitted on boats returned by Pakistan

†*410. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Government of Pakistan has recently returned 280 fishermen and 40 Indian boats that were-seized from Indian region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also aware that the equipment worth lakhs of rupees fitted in these boats are missing;

(d) if so, whether Government have requested Pakistan to return the equipment; and

(e) if so, their reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a)

Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan released 280 Indian fishermen and 44 boats on February 24, 2003.

(c) Government of Gujarat has conveyed that till 4.4.2003 it had not received any representation/complaints in this regard.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Violation of Labour Laws

*411. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some companies are openly violating labour laws and the conditions of labourers/workers are very critical;

(b) whether Government are aware that a number of Members of Parliament have submitted representations to his Ministry regarding stringent action against those companies which are functioning in New Delhi, if so, how many representations have been received since March, 2003, till date;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have taken any steps against those companies who are harassing the labourers/workers; and

(d) if no action has been taken the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) It is not correct to say that conditions of workers working in companies are very critical. However complaints are received and inspections are carried out to get the irregularities rectified.

(b) Since March 2003 two letters have been received from Members of Parliament. In one case a request has been made for re-instatement of a worker in service. The other case relates to non-payment of dues in case of one worker. Both these establishments are located in Delhi. The Government of NCT of Delhi is the appropriate Government in the matter. These representations have been forwarded to the Government of NCT Delhi for appropriate action under the relevant labour laws.

(c) and (d) The Government of NCT of Delhi takes appropriate action under the relevant labour laws against the employees in case of non-compliance of the statutory provisions.

No buyers for PSUs

*412. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have sent back proposals of eight Public Sector Undertakings to Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises because there was no buyer for the same;

(b) if so, the names of these undertakings; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to decide future of these undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These PSUs are listed below:

1. Praga Tools Ltd. (PTL)
2. Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd. (BPCL)